

At the conclusion of the conjoint dinner of the B. O. U. and B. O. C., the President of the British Ornithologists' Union proposed the health of HIS MAJESTY THE KING and that of absent "Ibises," as is customary at the annual dinner. He then vacated the Chair in favour of Dr. P. L. SCLATER, who, as Chairman of the B. O. C., conducted the business during the remainder of the evening :—

Mr. W. EAGLE CLARKE showed a female Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*) and her four chicks, taken at Prince Charles Foreland, Spitzbergen, in the summer of 1906 by Dr. W. S. Bruce, and presented by him to the Royal Scottish Museum. Mr. Clarke remarked that although the eggs of the Sanderling had been known for about 85 years, the chicks were rare and, so far as he was aware, had not hitherto been described.

Mr. BOYD ALEXANDER exhibited and described examples of the following new species of African birds :—

*PSALIDOPROCNE BAMINGUI*, sp. n.

*Adult male and female.* Similar to *P. holomelæna* (Sundev.), but smaller, and with the entire upper- and underparts uniformly glossed with oil-green; the under wing-coverts brownish-white, but paler than in *P. holomelæna*; and the tail deeply forked. Iris, legs, and feet brown.

♂. Wing 95 mm.; tail 94.

♀. „ 86 mm.; „ 72.

*Hab.* R. Bamingui, Upper Shari River, 13. viii. 05.

*COTILE SUDANENSIS*, sp. n.

*Adult male.* Similar to *C. minor*, Cab., but slightly smaller and with the upperparts paler, especially on the rump; throat and breast pale greyish-brown; remainder of the underparts white. Wing 90–93 mm.; tail 48–50.

*Hab.* Bulturi, Lake Chad, 12. i. 05.

*Obs.* The species extends eastwards to the Nile, and there are examples of it in the British Museum from the Sudan, procured by the Hon. N. C. Rothschild and Mr. A. F. R. Woliaston.

*APALIS GOSLINGI*, sp. n.

*Adult male.* Similar to *A. porphyrolæma*, Reichenow & Neum., but smaller, and with the chin and throat whitish-buff instead of rufous; tail-feathers conspicuously tipped with white. Total length about 105 mm.; culmen 10; wing 48; tail 44.

*Hab.* R. Guruba, Welle Region; 17. v. 06.

*Obs.* The type, which is evidently a fully adult bird, is marked in my note-book as "breeding."

*MIRAFRA CHADENSIS*, sp. n.

*Adult male and female.* Similar to *M. cantillans*, Blyth, but very much paler; feathers of the upperparts pale sandy brown, with dark brown middles; secondaries and wing-coverts broadly edged with white, giving the whole wing a hoary appearance; throat pure white, the chest with small angular spots of pale brown, but less numerous and not so dark as in *M. cantillans*; lower part of body pale creamy white, not pale buff as in *M. cantillans*.

♂. Culmen 10 mm.; wing 79; tail 60.

♀. „ 10 mm.; „ 75; „ 58.

*Hab.* Kowa Baga, Lake Chad, 19-22. iv. 05.

*Obs.* Examples of this new species have been compared with examples of *M. simplex*, Heugl. (= *M. cantillans*), from Arabia, in the British Museum.

*DENDROMUS HERBERTI*, sp. n.

*Adult male and female.* Similar to *D. efulenensis*, Chubb (*cf. infra*, p. 92), but differ in having the upper surface bright green with scarcely any golden tinge; chin, throat, and sides of head hoary-white, streaked with brown, and contrasting with the remainder of the underparts, the general tone of which is greener than in *D. efulenensis*. Iris light hazel; bill blackish lead-colour; legs and feet olive-green.

♂. Culmen 16 mm.; wing 85; tail (worn) 50.

♀. „ 18 mm.; „ 86; tail 58.

*Hab.* Ranging from the Ubanghi River to Unyoro.

Type: ♂. Bwanda, Ubanghi R., 24. xii. 05: Alexander-Gosling coll.

Type in the British Museum: ♀. Bugoma Forest, Unyoro, 10. vi. 05: Christy coll.

*CAPRIMULGUS CHADENSIS*, sp. n.

*Adult male and female.* Similar to *C. accræ*, Shelley, but the general coloration of the upperparts is of a pale sandy-brown with sandy-buff edges to the feathers of the hind-neck, forming a distinct neck-band; forehead and supra-loral streak whitish-buff; general colour of the underparts paler than in *C. accræ*; belly clear sandy buff.

♂. Culmen 11 mm.; wing 152; tail 102.

♀. „ 8 mm.; „ 143; „ 100.

*Hab.* Lake Chad, 10–30. iv. 05.

*Obs.* *C. accræ*, of which there are three specimens (including the type) in the British Museum, is quite distinct from *C. fulviventris*.

*CAPRIMULGUS GABONENSIS*, sp. n.

*Adult male and female.* Similar to *C. fulviventris* (Hartl.), but considerably smaller; with the upperparts less rufous and with numerous black middles to the feathers, giving these parts a more mottled appearance.

♂. Culmen 13 mm.; wing 140; tail 95.

♀. „ 12 mm.; „ 135; „ 94.

*Hab.* Gaboon. Types in the British Museum.

*Obs.* The ranges of *C. natalensis* and its allies are as follows:—

*C. natalensis*, Smith. Natal to the Baro River, Sudan, on the east and to the Welle region on the west.

*C. fulviventris* (Hartl.). Angola.

*C. gabonensis*, Alexander. Gaboon.

*C. accræ*, Shelley. Gold Coast.

*C. chadensis*, Alexander. Lake Chad.

*INDICATOR THERESÆ*, sp. n.

*Adult male.* Similar to *I. stictithorax*, Reichenow, but with the head and back uniformly washed with greenish,

instead of a light yellowish-olive; chin and throat yellowish-white streaked with dark greenish, and paler than in *I. stictithorax*; feathers of the breast dark greenish, with twin-spots of yellowish-white; middle of the abdomen pale yellow. Iris brown; bill brown; legs and feet greenish.

Total length about 170 mm.; culmen 10; wing 106; tail 85.

*Hab.* Gudima, R. Iri, 28. viii. 06.

Mr. BOYD ALEXANDER also made the following remarks on certain species of *Indicator*:—

He stated that he had now proved to his own satisfaction that *I. major*, Steph., was synonymous with *I. indicator* (Gmel.). The former was supposed to differ from *I. indicator* in having the bases of many of the feathers of the chin and throat yellow; the breast washed with yellow; the shoulder-patch much reduced in size or absent; and the wing-coverts devoid of white edges.

Mr. Alexander exhibited a nearly adult male of *I. indicator* which possessed all the above-mentioned characters attributed to *I. major*. In the British Museum there were several specimens showing the same change of plumage.

Up to the present time birds with almost uniform yellow underparts had been regarded as females or young males of *I. major*, and in this stage of plumage had been named *I. bariannus*, Heugl., and *I. flavicollis*, Swains.

Three specimens procured by the Alexander-Gosling Expedition showed the following stages of plumage:—

- (1) A specimen shot in May had the entire underparts bright yellow, and showed no indication of a yellow shoulder-patch.
- (2) In a second specimen, shot in August, the yellow of the underparts was disappearing, black feathers were beginning to make their appearance on the chin and throat, and there were indications of a yellow shoulder-patch.
- (3) A third example, obtained in October, was even less brightly coloured than the above-mentioned